Aphasia Book Club

Flowers for Algernon

Week 4: Pages 72-96

Worksheet C

1. Charlie plays with his spinner on page 74 and page 84. He plays with his spinner to comfort him in times where he feels uncomfortable or stressed.

Do you have something, either an object or a habit, that you rely on when you feel uncomfortable or stressed?

What makes it so comforting for you?

Charlie’s mom takes his spinner away from him at one point because she is unhappy with his behavior. How do you feel when you can’t use the thing that comforts you?

1. Charlie relies on Miss. Kinnian for support when he needs a friend or when he needs advice (page 78 and page 90).

Who do you go to when you need advice? Are they good at helping you solve your problem?

On page 80, Miss Kinnian did not give Charlie answer he was looking for. “When she put me off, I felt awkward and ridiculous at the same time…I hated her as I had never hated anyone before.” Have you ever been frustrated with the person that you go to for support and advice? Why?

1. Many times in the book, Charlie describes dreams he’s having. Most of the dreams don’t make any sense to him, and seem to be very confusing.

What do you think these dreams mean? Why would the author include these dreams in the story?

How do you predict the description of these dreams will affect the rest of the story?

Do you think we will ever understand the meaning behind the dreams?

1. On page 86, Charlie notices that Gimpy is stealing from the bakery. If you were Charlie, how would you handle that situation?

Do you agree with how Charlie handled the situation?

How do you think this will affect his friendship with Gimpy? How do you think it will affect his relationship with Mr. Donner?